

Cover Sheet – Non-Social Service Activity

AGENCY NAME: Town of Amherst
AGENCY ADDRESS: 4 Boltwood Ave.
AGENCY PHONE NO: 413-259-3040 CONTACT PERSON: David Ziomek
CONTACT PERSON EMAIL: ziomekd@amherstma.gov
CDBG FUNDING REQUEST: \$250,000.00

1. Project Name
Phase III: East Hadley Road Pedestrian Improvements Project
 2. Project Description (1-2 sentences)
Funds are requested for Phase III to complete a 8-10' wide multi-use path on East Hadley Road. The funds are requested to cover increased construction costs and storm water mitigation because of the proximity to the Fort River.
 3. Project Location (Street address)
East Hadley Road
 4. Budget Request
\$250,000.00
 5. Type of Activity (check one):
 - ☐ Rehabilitation
 - ☐ Acquisition
 - ☐ Demolition/clearance
 - ☒ Infrastructure
 - ☐ Public Facility
 - ☐ Architectural Barrier Removal
 - ☐ Other – please explain
 6. National Objective:
 - Total number of beneficiaries (individuals served): approx. 2,635
 - Total Low/Mod beneficiaries (individuals served): approx. 1,550 (59% low/mod)
-

Please submit responses to the following questions:

Project Name: East Hadley Road Pedestrian Improvements Project

Project Location: East Hadley Road, Amherst, MA

Census Block Group: 250158208013 (south of East Hadley Road) and 250158205005 (north of East Hadley Road)

National Objective Description

The Block Group south of East Hadley Road has a low/mod percentage of 81% representing 1455 people. Although this block group extends down Route 116 and includes properties north along West Pomeroy Lane, most of the low/mod individuals live along East Hadley Road. The neighborhood north of East Hadley Road contains approximately 110 properties that are mostly single family homes. Eleven percent of this block group is low/mod so that a small proportion of this neighborhood is income eligible.

Combining the populations of the block groups north and south of East Hadley Road yields a majority (approximately 60%) of residents who are income eligible.

Demonstrate Consistency with Sustainable Development Principles

By improving pedestrian connections to public transit and to the new electric-assist bikeshare program, recreation amenities and a village center, the East Hadley Road infrastructure improvement project meets three sustainable development principles: 1) concentrate development and mix uses, 2) advance equity, and 7) provide transportation choice.

Demonstrate Consistency with Target Area requirements

East Hadley Road is located within the East Hadley Road/Pomeroy Village Center Target Area. Within this target area, East Hadley Road has a large proportion of income eligible residents.

A. Demonstrate Consistency with Community Priorities

The project is consistent with priority project #3 in the 2018 Community Development Strategy, improving public infrastructure in the village centers and target areas. A multi-use path along East Hadley Road will create a barrier free sidewalk that connects residents with public transportation and other amenities, including a new bikeshare station on East Hadley Road that will provide 20 electric-assist bikes that can be used to cycle to local shops and destinations. This project will also help connect residents with Groff Park, a widely used recreation area in South Amherst. Bringing neighborhood residents to public transit and the recreation area achieves goals articulated in the Strategy and is part of a larger effort aimed at making Amherst more sustainable in terms of pedestrian connectivity, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, and allocating resources to meet a high community need and demand.

B. Agency Information

The Town offers high level government services, quality education, support for open space and agriculture, promotion of economic development, and respect for its history. Town government has been in existence for decades, with numerous departments and citizen boards and committees

all working toward common goals that benefit its citizens and the community. Currently, Amherst has professional staff in all of its departments, in particular its Accounting, Conservation, Planning, Facilities and Public Works Departments who commonly work with consultants and contractors to manage and develop such projects as feasibility studies and assessments, development of engineering specifications, and construction projects ranging from public infrastructure to affordable housing. Town staff is competent with procurement regulations, balancing budgets, and efficiently managing contracts so that deliverables are received on time. The Department of Public Works and Planning Department Staff will work closely with the contractors to oversee the project. This is the same staff who:

- Managed the \$150,000 accessibility upgrades to Boltwood Walk (installation of new concrete walkway with improved drainage)
- Supervised the installation of a new sidewalk along South East Street connecting Colonial Village Apartments to the village Center.
- Managed the reconstruction of Shumway Street, including new drainage and utilities, road and sidewalk paving, and driveway entrance improvements.
- Managed the repaving of Main Street and its sidewalks.

C. Project Budget Information

The project budget was prepared by town staff using unit costs published by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division and quantities estimated by the Engineer. The costs associated with Phase III are the result of increased material costs since the project was designed almost 2 years ago, and because of the cost to mitigate storm water runoff that is within the riverfront of the Fort River. Town staff have reviewed the best approaches to reduce impacts to the Fort River caused by the increased pavement of the multi-use path, which include engineered solutions such as underground tanks and equipment, and more involved landscaping and earthwork. The extra costs of this work are included in the budget.

There are no funds requested for operations or maintenance, as the Town would maintain the path as part of its annual schedule.

D. Project Description

The goal is to have a continuous multi-use path on East Hadley Road that serves pedestrians and cyclists.

The project involves the installation of an 8-10' wide multi-use path along East Hadley Road. The path would provide an accessible, safe route that connects residents with bus stops, Groff Park, and Route 116 (where additional bus routes are available and where there is a continuous sidewalk to the Pomeroy Village Center). The current sidewalk is extremely narrow in places and not accessible, and this would be greatly improved by the new multi-use path.

The sidewalk crosses East Hadley Road three times at crosswalks that have limited safety features. The plan is to increase the safety of the crosswalks with raised crosswalks that have more pavement markings and line painting, and new pedestrian bollards with flashing lights. The roadway would be widened in sections for the installation of dedicated bus pull offs and stops with permanent shelters.

The new path would intersect Route 116 on the south side of East Hadley Road (its current location) and would have new pedestrian signals and curb cuts to connect with the sidewalk to north, which provides access to Groff Park.

The realignment of the path and crosswalks would also involve new drainage infrastructure and the removal and planting of street trees.

E. Project Need

The project is needed to safely bring approximately 1,500 low- and moderate-income residents along East Hadley road to access public transit, Groff Park, and the Pomeroy Village Center. Residents often walk in the road and do not use the sidewalk or crosswalks, creating dangerous, unsafe conditions. Although there is public transportation available on East Hadley Road, more routes are available from stops on Route 116. On a daily basis, many residents walk to Route 116 to take advantage of this public transit. Residents of this area use Groff Park very frequently as it offers open space, playing fields, playgrounds, access to the Fort River, and a wading pool. In 2015, the Amherst Health Department conducted a survey of East Hadley Road residents and found that many use public transportation and Groff Park, and that more would take advantage of these resources if they were easier to access. Residents also head west to the shops in Hadley, and walk in the road and in the fields. Extending the multi-use path to the Town boundary would provide a safe route to the shopping areas.

The Town is planning to upgrade Groff Park and anticipate this will encourage even more use from the East Hadley Road neighborhood. A new multi-use path would safely accommodate new and existing users.

F. Community Involvement and Support

Following up on the work of the Health Department that identified Groff Park as a widely used amenity and the high use of public transportation by East Hadley Road residents, the Town has planned three improvement projects for this area: modernize Groff Park, new multi-use path along East Hadley Road (to connect to Groff, public transportation and Crocker Farm Elementary School), and a paved connection to the Norwottuck Rail Trail (this project is mainly in Hadley). Plans to improve Groff Park included a community-wide survey with targeted outreach to East Hadley Road. Respondents indicated a desire to improve the Park as well as the pedestrian connection to it to make it easier and safer to access. The Town's intention is to implement the plans at Groff Park in 2019.

G. Project Feasibility

Currently the project is in final design and permitting. 2/3 of the multi-use path is already under construction; it is approximately 60% complete and will be done by July 1, 2019. The last third will soon be under review by the Town's Conservation Commission as they determine the stormwater management solutions and other mitigation for possible impacts. The Town's plan is to complete the permitting and review in January/February 2019 with final plans by April 1, 2019. The project will be bid in early spring for a summer/fall construction.

The State's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has already provided preliminary review of the project and will be involved during the Conservation Commission

process. NHESP did not see major issues, and suggested use of sloped curbing and access areas for small amphibians/animals to navigate across the road and sidewalk.

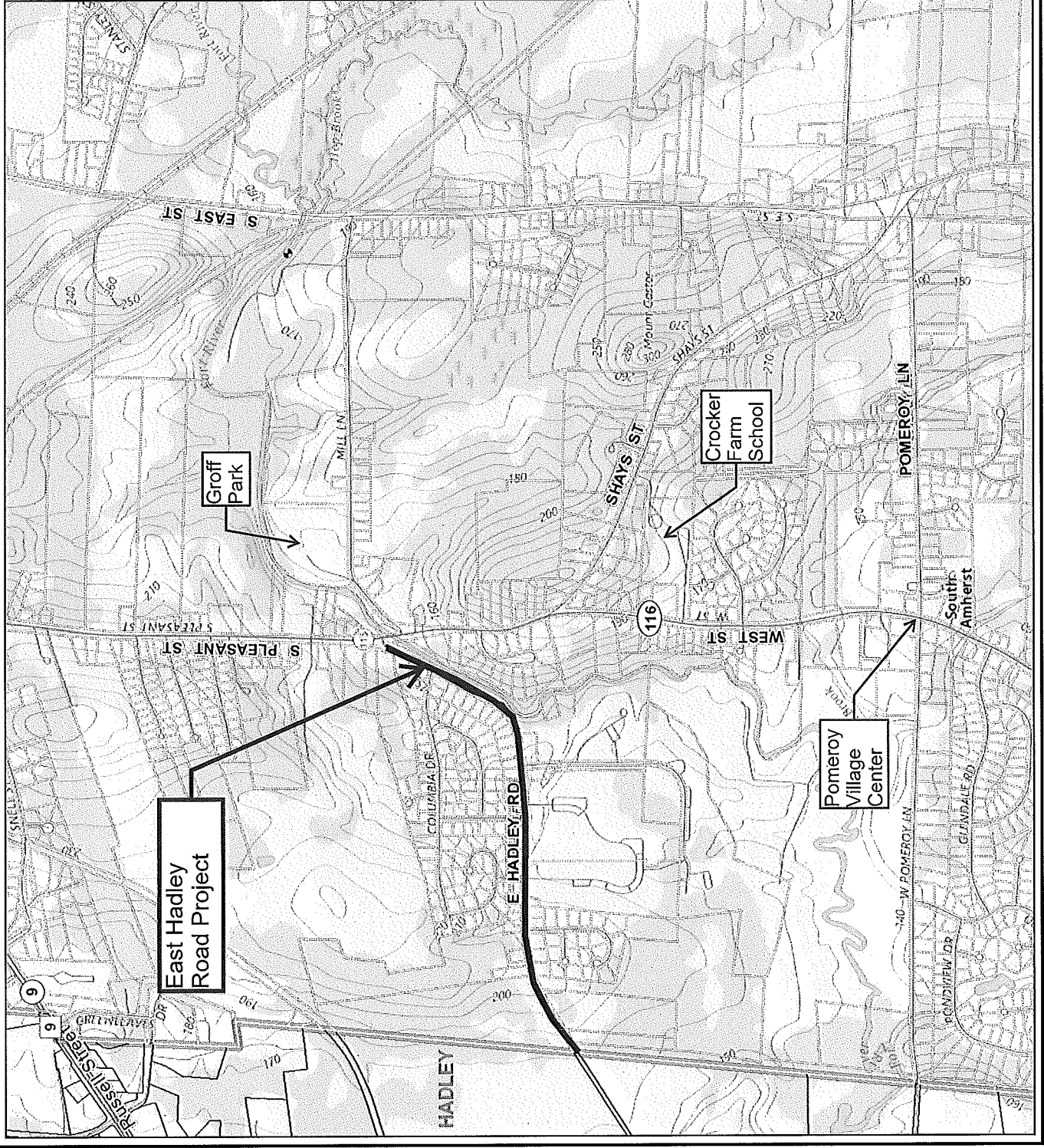
H. Project Impact

The impacts will be a safer, completely accessible path for residents that will result in fewer complaints. The bus stops will also be safer with the dedicated pull offs and new pedestrian signals at Route 116 will make it easier for residents to walk to Groff Park and access the sidewalks on Route 116 to walk into the Pomeroy Village Center and Crocker Farm Elementary School.

East Hadley Road- USGS



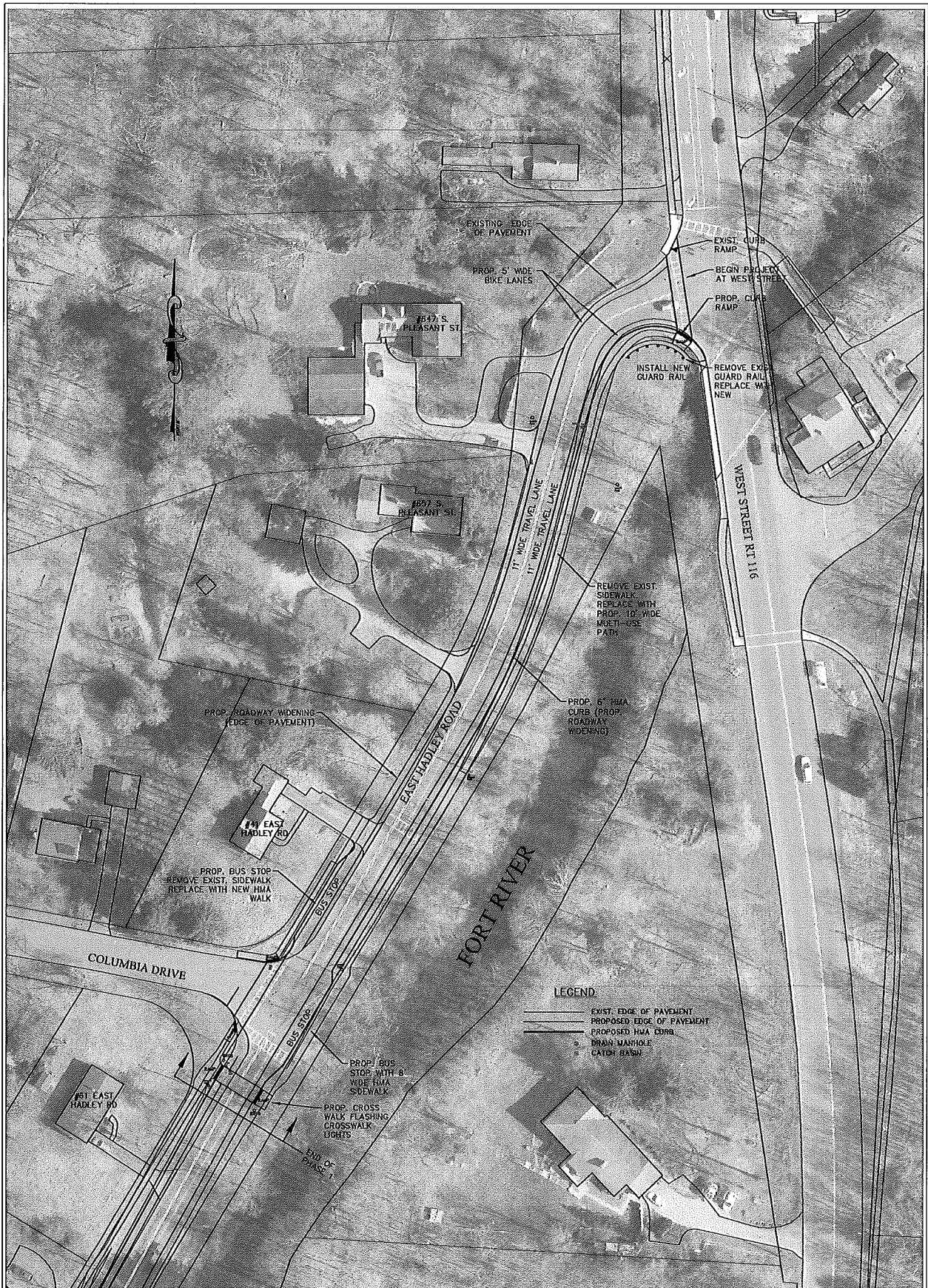
Property Map
 - Property Lines
 - Adjacent Towns Parcels



Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, NAD83, Feet; Vertical Datum: NAVD83, FT
 Planimetric & topographic basemap compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography, Parcels compiled to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing.
 The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. Utility structures & underground utility locations are approximate & require field verification.
 The Town of Amherst makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of these data, & does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of these data.



1" = 2000 ft



TOWN OF AMHERST
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION
386 SOUTH PLASANT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002
413-259-3050

REV.	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
JOB NAME: EAST HADLEY ROAD MULTI-USE PATH		DRAWN BY: PGD CHCKD BY:	
LOCATION: CONCEPTUAL PLAN		SCALE: 1"=30'	
EAST HADLEY ROAD		DATE: MARCH 10, 2017	
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002		JOB NO.: TP17-04SHEET: 1 OF 1	
DESCRIPTION: CONCEPTUAL PLAN			